

Taylor's Advanced Hearing Systems
3207 International Drive, Suite R
Mobile, AL 36609-118
(334) 471-3393
Owner: Voncile Taylor, BC-HIS

Dear Senator/Congressman

Dennis Shulala, Secretary of Human Services

The Food and Drug Administration is in the process of proposing changes to the way hearing aids are sold that could put me out of business and impede access to hearing care services for millions of the hearing impaired.

I am a Board Certified, State Licensed, Hearing Instrument Specialist. For over twelve years, I have provided quality health care services for thousands of our state's hearing impaired. Presently, all three members of the hearing health care delivery team (Hearing Instrument Specialist, Audiologists, and Physicians) are recognized as qualified entry points into the hearing health care delivery system. The rule the FDA is advocating would allow audiologists, without any justification, to instill themselves as the sole entry point into the hearing health care by allowing states to require expensive and nonessential tests that only audiologists are qualified to perform. That would also take away the people's right to choose their own provider. This would result in higher insurance costs, as well as cutting out an abundance of free services and maintenance programs that specialists provide for the hearing impaired. To take away the people's right to make their own choices would be "to dictate" and certainly a true form of communism.

Allowing audiologists an exclusive role in the hearing aid delivery system, without unqualified medical data as evidence that such a role is necessary for public health reasons, would severely undermine public health and safety and would increase costs to the hearing impaired.

The medical community, specifically the American Academy of Otolaryngologists (Ear, nose, and throat specialists) opposes this FDA proposal.

Please contact the Secretary of Health and urge that this FDA proposal on hearing health care be withdrawn.

I look forward to your response.

Cordially,

Voncile Taylor

Voncile Taylor, BC-HIS

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TAYLOR'S ADVANCED HEARING SYSTEMS
3207 INTERNATIONAL DR. STE R
MOBILE, AL 36606



HONORABLE DONNA SHALALA
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS
ROOM 615 F
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE. SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

20201+0001

